

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 2, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 26

Introduced by Assembly Member Davis

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Blumenfield, Charles Calderon, De Leon, Gaines, Krekorian, Price, Silva, and Audra Strickland
Audra Strickland, Adams, Ammiano, Anderson, Arambula, Bass, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Tom Berryhill, Blakeslee, Block, Brownley, Buchanan, Caballero, Carter, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Coto, DeVore, Duvall, Emmerson, Eng, Evans, Feuer, Fletcher, Fong, Fuentes, Fuller, Furutani, Galgiani, Garrick, Gilmore, Hagman, Harkey, Hayashi, Hernandez, Hill, Huber, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Lieu, Logue, Bonnie Lowenthal, Mendoza, Miller, Monning, Nava, Nestande, Niello, John A. Perez, V. Manuel Perez, Portantino, Ruskin, Salas, Saldana, Skinner, Smyth, Solorio, Swanson, Torlakson, Torres, Torrico, Villines, and Yamada)**

February 18, 2009

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 26—Relative to arts education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 26, as amended, Davis. Arts Education Month.

This measure would declare March 2009 to be Arts Education Month and would encourage all elected officials to participate with their educational communities in celebrating the arts.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Arts education, which includes dance, music,
- 2 theatre, and the visual arts, is an essential and integral part of basic

1 education for all pupils in prekindergarten, kindergarten, and grades
2 1 to 12, inclusive; and

3 WHEREAS, The arts are crucial to achieving a state educational
4 policy that is devoted to the teaching of basic academic skills and
5 lifelong learning capacities with the goal of truly preparing all
6 children for success after high school regardless of gender, age,
7 economic status, physical ability, or learning ability; and

8 WHEREAS, A systematic, substantive, and sequential visual
9 and performing arts curriculum addresses and develops ways of
10 thinking, questioning, expression, and learning that complement
11 learning in other core subjects, but that is unique in what it has to
12 offer; and

13 WHEREAS, Pupils benefit from arts learning in the areas of
14 cultural understanding, readiness for learning and creative thinking,
15 cognitive outcomes, emotional intelligence and expression, social
16 interaction and collaboration, and preparation for the workplace
17 and lifelong learning; and

18 WHEREAS, Arts education in California is mandated for pupils
19 in grades 1 to 12, inclusive, by Sections 51210 and 51220 of the
20 Education Code, which provide, in part, “[t]he adopted course of
21 study ... shall include instruction ... in [v]isual and performing arts
22 including instruction in the subjects of dance, music, theatre, and
23 visual arts, aimed at the development of aesthetic appreciation and
24 the skills of creative expression”; and

25 WHEREAS, The arts are recognized as part of a quality
26 education, and the University of California and the California State
27 University have instituted a policy that includes visual and
28 performing arts as a college preparatory subject for all high school
29 pupils wishing to enter California’s institutions of higher education;
30 and

31 WHEREAS, In 2006 the Legislature passed and Governor
32 Schwarzenegger signed into law a landmark investment in music
33 and arts education programs, including a block grant of one
34 hundred five million dollars (\$105,000,000) to support
35 standards-aligned instruction in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12,
36 inclusive; and

37 WHEREAS, In 2006 the Legislature also passed and Governor
38 Schwarzenegger signed into law an additional five hundred million
39 dollars (\$500,000,000) to be distributed on a one-time basis for

1 the purchase of visual and performing arts and physical education
2 professional development supplies and equipment; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2007, this ongoing investment in arts education
4 plus a cost-of-living increase was passed by the Legislature and
5 signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger; and

6 WHEREAS, The Legislature intends this funding to help
7 implement a comprehensive vision for arts education at the local
8 level, to ensure that every pupil in California benefits from this
9 investment; and

10 WHEREAS, This funding is the first step in investing in quality
11 visual and performing arts programs for all California pupils; and

12 WHEREAS, Many national and state professional arts education
13 associations hold celebrations in the month of March, giving
14 California schools a unique opportunity to focus on the value of
15 the arts for all pupils, to foster cross-cultural understanding, to
16 give recognition to the state's outstanding young artists, and to
17 enhance public support for this essential part of the curriculum;
18 now, therefore, be it

19 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
20 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims the month of
21 March 2009 as Arts Education Month and encourages all elected
22 officials to participate with their educational communities in
23 celebrating the arts with meaningful activities and programs for
24 pupils, teachers, and the public that demonstrate learning and
25 understanding in the visual and performing arts, and urges all
26 residents to become interested in and give full support to quality
27 school arts programs for children and youth; and be it further

28 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
29 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.